

Forest Certification Work Instruction
--

Date of Draft Document:**Effective Date:** February 7, 2006**Revision Number:** 1**Supersedes Version Dated:** June 20, 2005

Work Instruction Title: 1.3 Ecoregional Plan Development**Work Area Group:** 1 – Plan, Monitor, and Review

Purpose: Define roles, responsibilities, and timeline for the development of Ecoregional State Forest Land Management Plans. Provide a document outline to follow when developing the Plans.

Work Instruction:

1. Ecoregional plan development will be carried out within the context of, and with consideration for Division, statewide, local, species-specific, and other DNR planning efforts. While the focus will be on DNR state forest lands within each ecoregion, conditions and trends within the broader ecoregion will be taken into account. It will serve as the process through which forest-related, state land management planning will be generated with public involvement. The planning documents, in turn, provide long-term, landscape-level direction to field managers to guide decision making at the Management Unit level.
2. The process will be most directly and immediately guided by the Ecoregional planning team. Collaboration with external parties (e.g. the Nature Conservancy, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, U.S. Forest Service, etc.) will be expected. Criteria and indicators (C & I) of sustainability reflecting forestry values will be developed through a public process. As part of this phase, metrics associated with the C & I will be identified, their collection and/or monitoring defined, and interpretations of metric values or parameters will be developed. Statewide C & I will be developed through coordination among the Ecoregional planning teams and DNR Lansing staff. Proposed ecoregional goal statements associated with the C & I metrics will be drafted. As part of this process and in preparation for plan development, resource assessments will be identified and completed.

Subsequent planning steps will entail preparing the plan with public involvement. They are tied to Plan document sections as follows:

- Complete Sec. 1 - Understanding the Ecoregion Forest Plan
- Complete Sec. 2 - Forest History
- Complete Sec. 3 - Current Forest Condition
- Draft Sec. 4 - Ecoregion Management Direction
- Engage the general public and focus groups in reviewing Section 4; hold a public comment period and redraft Section 4 taking into consideration the input
- Draft Sec. 5 - Special Resource Area Management Direction
- Complete Section 6 - Implementation, Monitoring, Review & Revision
- Complete Sec. 7 – Appendices, Sec. 8 – Glossary, and a Plan Summary
- Engage the general public and focus groups in reviewing the complete draft plan; hold a public comment period and redraft taking into consideration the input
- Submit final draft of completed plan to Division Management Teams and then to Statewide Council for approval.

3. The Eastern Upper Peninsula Ecoregional Plan will be completed by December 31, 2006. It will be followed by plans for the Northern Lower Peninsula Ecoregion and Western Upper Peninsula Ecoregion one year later. Both the Northern Lower and the Western Upper Peninsula Eco-teams may choose to pursue steps towards their planning efforts during the course of the Eastern UP's plan development in collaboration with the forest certification planners.
4. Subject to future revisions by the Statewide Council, the general outline of the Ecoregional plans should be as follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Understanding the Ecoregion Forest Plan
 - a. Purpose & Use of the plan
 - b. Plan Organization and Relationship to Other Plans.
 - c. Use of Criteria & Indicators
 - d. Plan Communications, Implementation, and Review Requirements
 - e. Location of the Ecoregion and boundaries of Division management units
2. Forest History
 - a. Pre-settlement History
 - b. Post-settlement History
 - c. Contemporary History
3. Current Forest Condition
 - a. General Land Cover and Forest Resource Base
 - Ecoregion-wide Forest Conditions and Trends
 - DNR-owned Forest Land Conditions and Trends
 - b. Forest Health Conditions and Trends
 - c. Wildlife Conditions and Trends
 - d. Water and Fisheries Conditions and Trends
 - e. Socioeconomic Context – Human Uses and Trends
4. Ecoregional Management Direction for State Forest Lands and programs
 - a. Definition of terms
 - i. Desired Future Conditions
 - ii. Goals
 - iii. Objectives
 - iv. Standards
 - v. Guidelines
 - b. Desired Future Conditions, Goals & Objectives, Indicators & Metrics
 - i. Recreation Management
 - Water Access Sites
 - Motorized & non-motorized Trails
 - Campgrounds Scenery Management
 - ii. Vegetation Management
 - Biodiversity
 - Forest Products
 - Wildlife
 - Fisheries
 - Rare Communities
 - iii. Watershed Management Soil Resources
 - Soil Resources
 - Riparian Areas & Wetlands
 - iv. Species of Greatest Conservation Need
 - Federal T & E Species

- State T & E Species
- Species of Special Concern
- v. Land Use Management
 - Easements
 - Special Use Permits
- vi. Minerals & Geology
 - Oil & Gas Development
 - Metallic & Non-Metallic Mineral Development
 - Unique Geologic Formations
- vii. Forest Pest Management
 - Insects
 - Disease
 - Invasive Species
- viii. Fire Management
 - Fuel Management
 - Prescribed Fire
 - Fire Prevention
 - Fire Suppression
- ix. Land Ownership
 - Acquisition and Disposal
 - Boundary Designation (Signage)
- x. Transportation System
 - Road Maintenance
 - Road Closure
- xi. Law Enforcement
 - Contract Enforcement
 - Illegal Activities (ORV use, Illegal Harvests)
 - Trespass
- xii. Governmental and Stakeholder Relations
 - Tribal
 - Local Government
 - Non-Governmental Organizations

5. Special Resource Management Direction

Special Conservation Areas

- Old Growth and Biodiversity Areas
- Water Bodies, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas
- Large Landscape Level Forests
- Habitat Areas and Corridors
- Restricted Access Areas
- Archaeological Sites
- Cultural and Customary Use Areas
- Visual Management Areas
- Concentrated and Dispersed Recreation Areas
- Mineral Resource Areas
- Designated Natural Areas
- Other Areas

High Conservation Value Areas

- Dedicated Natural Areas
- Wilderness or Wild Areas
- Natural Rivers
- Critical Dunes
- Dedicated Species Recovery Areas

- Dedicated Management Areas
 - Environmental Areas
- Ecological Reference Areas (ERA)

6. Monitoring, Review & Revision
 - a. Management Review System
 - b. Plan Monitoring
 - c. Plan Revision

7. Appendices

8. Glossary

A Plan Summary will be developed upon completion of the plan

Scope: (All State Forest Land and Affected Divisions): ☒ State Forest Land ☒ Other: Michigan lands other than State-owned

☒ DNR – FMFM ☒ DNR – Wildlife ☒ DNR – Fish ☒ DNR – Law ☐ DNR – Parks

Responsibility and Role: (Staff who will implement or supervise this instruction)

Job Title/Division	Role
All DNR personnel within an Ecoregion	Participate in the planning process as a resource to the Ecoregional Planning Team. Implement the plan through on-the-ground operations.
FMFM Inventory and Planning Specialists & Wildlife Ecologists	Document and summarize the revisions to ecoregional planning process and assist with the development and review of the ecoregional plans through the Ecoregional Planning Teams.
Other specialists	Assist with the development of particular plan sections pertaining to specialty.
Regional Ecoteam	Oversees the ecoregional planning process. Coordinates DNR ecoregional input and public input into plan development. Review and draft ecoregional plan and present to Statewide Council. Responsible for plan monitoring and recommending revisions to the plan and implications for DNR operations. Responsible for communicating and coordinating with DNR staff within the ecoregion and Ecoregional Planning Team.
Ecoregional Planning Team: Wildlife Mgt Unit Ecologist (WE) FMFM Inv. & Planning Specialist (IPS) Lansing FMFMD Cert. planners (FCP) Lansing WLD Cert planner (WCP) FSHD representative	Create Ecoregional plans: WE and IPS – Liaison between FCP/WCP and Ecoteams, Draw on field-based Division resources to write and compile local sections of plan and integrate with statewide components. FCP/WCP – Draw on Lansing and other Division resources to write statewide components of plans and compile with ecoregional sections. Assures compliance with legislation and compatibility with certification requirements.
Statewide Planning Team	Review draft eco-regional plans for consistency and their content/direction compatibility with other plans. Responsible for monitoring and analyzing the 3 plans to ensure they are meeting statewide objectives and directions.
Statewide Council (SWC)	Appoints Ecoteams, the Statewide Planning Team, and approves the planning process, the final draft Ecoregional Plans, and future revisions.
DNR Director	Approves the Ecoregional Plans.

Training/Skills: (Those required to accomplish work instruction)

Item:	Brief Description of Skill or Course	Exists/ New
Familiarity with OI, FIA, & T-Sale Data;	Good computer skills with databases	<input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N
GIS/Analysis Skills	ArcView/ArcInfo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
Models/Modeling	Skills or knowledge of resource models and modeling	<input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N
Facilitation Training	Facilitate meetings with stakeholders-internal and external	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
Plan process	Review planning process with Department staff	<input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N

References:

- Draft ecoregional planning timeline
- Draft review and revisions to the ecoregional planning process
- Draft Statewide Forest Management Guidance Document
- Part 525, Statewide Forest Resources Plan, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451

Monitoring:

- Reporting, monitoring, analyzing, and adapting management would take place at all 3 levels-FMU, Ecoregion, and Statewide. Monitoring of the ecoregional planning process will be the responsibility of the ecoteam and the statewide planning team. Specifics of this will be outlined in Section 6 of the plan.
- Subsequent review and revision of the process will be the responsibility of the ecoteams, statewide planning team and Statewide Council.

Records:

- C&I measurements and reports
 - Public comments
 - Public meeting notes and comments
 - SWC documented approvals
 - Maps and background documents
 - Analysis results
 - Draft and final plan documents
-